

REMARKS

Claims 10-18 and 28-37 have been withdrawn. Claim 23 has been cancelled. New Claim 38 has been added. Claims 1, 19-22, and 24-27 have been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 1-9, 19-22, 24-27, and 38 are pending.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1 and 19 have been amended in a manner believed to overcome the Examiner's rejections of those claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 2-9 depend from Claim 1 and their rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is therefore also believed to have been overcome.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 1 and 19 have been amended in a manner believed to overcome the Examiner's rejections of those claims under 35 U.S.C. §101. As Claims 2-9, 20-22, and 24-27 depend, either directly or indirectly from either Claim 1 or Claim 19, the Examiner's rejections of those claims are therefore also believed to have been overcome.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-9, 19-22, and 24-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Silverman et al (EP 0 399 850 A2). The Examiner has stated that "Silver[man] discloses that the highest **absolute value** (or ranking bid) is at the top of the book and the lowest **absolute value** is at the bottom." And, the Examiner has referenced Figures 4 and Figures 5 of Silverman, which depict values (e.g., 140.005, 139.70, etc.). In contrast, independent Claims 1, 19, and new Claim 38 each recite displaying the determined rank to the bidder who made the bid, **and not displaying the value** of any other bids. Support for the amendment may be found, without limitation, on page 9 of the Specification.

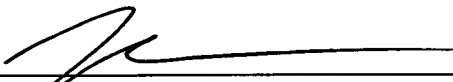
Claims 2-9, 20-22, and 24-27 depend, either directly or indirectly from one of the aforementioned independent claims and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

The foregoing amendments are not to be taken as an admission of unpatentability of any of the claims prior to the amendments.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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